Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Luis Luna, I'm a New Haven resident and organizer at Working Families.

I'm here in strong support of both **S.B. 383, An Act Increasing the Applicable Percentage of the Earned Income Tax Credit** and **H.B. 5403, An Act Establishing A Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax**

S.B. 383 would increase the Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit from 30.5 percent of the federal EITC to 41.5 percent, and H.B. 5403 would establish a Connecticut Child Tax Credit (CT CTC) of up to $600 per child.

Increasing the CT EITC would make the state's tax system fairer and help working-class families make ends meet.

Putting more money into the pockets of families who need it the most is important because as costs of living continue to rise, every extra dollar that we can get into families, can really help them stay afloat. I come from a low wage working class family and in my own experience, seeing my family struggle to pay all the bills, or having unexpected expenses has been really hard to witness. Increasing the CT-EITC would alleviate some of these issues. Connecticut is an expensive state to live in and wages have not kept pace with rising costs. We must address this inequities and this bill is a modest approach to get more money into the hands of working people.

In addition, if we are able to implement a Connecticut Child Tax Credit under H.B. 5403 our communities can invest that money into their children, no one knows better than a mother where and how to spend money for the family. Having a CT-Tax Credit of $600 would give mothers across Connecticut the ability to invest in their children.

Expanding the CT EITC and establishing the CT CTC are both essential to make Connecticut's tax system fairer and make our state more economically just for families. Please support the passage of these 2 critical bills.

Thank you for you time,

Luis Luna
New Haven CT